



## Operation Noble Eagle

At press time, more than 28,670 Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers had been called up to provide security at airports and other facilities around the country.

Some 1,500 National Guard troops, primarily from the Army Guard, began assisting U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and U.S. Customs Service officials in eight states along the Canadian border and in the four states along the Mexican border.

Congress commended Pentagon reconstruction crews for their dedicated work in repairing the Department of Defense's headquarters following the Sept. 11 terrorist attack. The "Phoenix Project" is six weeks ahead of schedule because of near-round-the-clock work shifts.

## Operation Enduring Freedom

During an April 6 ceremony in Afghanistan, Army Chief of Staff GEN Eric K. Shinseki pinned medals on several soldiers in recognition of their actions during Operation Anaconda.

SMA Jack Tilley also visited soldiers in Afghanistan and at support areas in the theater of operations.

U.S. and other coalition troops are continuing their search for al-Qaeda forces in eastern Afghanistan as part of Operation Mountain Lion.

On April 15, four American soldiers were killed and another was injured in Afghanistan when a 107mm rocket exploded while the troops were destroying captured weapons near Kandahar.

On March 19, a soldier was injured when a small number of U.S. troops at the airfield at Khost, Afghanistan, engaged enemy fighters armed with small arms, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars.

About 400 soldiers were greeted with tears of joy, hugs, kisses and cheers as they returned from Afghanistan to their homes at Fort Drum, N.Y., and Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.

Soldiers returning from operations in remote areas of Afghanistan enjoyed a hot meal and a USO concert by the rock alternative band Mink. — *Compiled from Army News Service, Armed Forces Press Service and DOD Public Affairs releases.*



Army Chief of Staff GEN Eric K. Shinseki speaks to 101st Airborne Division soldiers at Afghanistan's Kandahar Airfield before an awards ceremony for many of the soldiers who participated in Operation Anaconda.

SPC George Allen



Soldiers



PFC Christopher Stanis

SMA Jack L. Tilley talks to 101st Abn. Div. soldiers during his visit to Kandahar Airfield. Tilley conducted a question-and-answer session with the soldiers.



SPC Elizabeth Casebeer

Mink's lead singer, Jonda Madison, performs for U.S. and coalition personnel at Kandahar Airfield during the band's USO tour.



Steve Frith

SPC Jeremy Rabalais from the 10th Mountain Division's 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry, receives the Purple Heart from GEN Shinseki during a recent ceremony at Fort Drum, N.Y.



SGT Ronald Mitchell

Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White poses for a photo with 92nd Engineer Company soldiers at Afghanistan's Bagram Air Base. White visited Operation Enduring Freedom troops deployed in Afghanistan.



**Anniston Army Depot, Ala.**

## Army Accepts First U.S.-Built Stryker

ARMY Chief of Staff GEN Eric K. Shinseki officially accepted the first U.S.-built Stryker Interim Armored Vehicle during a rollout ceremony here April 12. The Army plans to buy more than 2,000 Strykers, which will become the workhorses of six Interim Brigade Combat Teams over the next decade.

Army officials said the Stryker brings to the battlefield more firepower and better protection than equipment currently in light divisions, yet it is more deployable than the M-2 Bradleys or the M-1 Abrams tanks in heavy divisions.

"Desert Storm taught us we could get light forces into theater very quickly, but it took too long to get the heavy forces in to sustain the fight," Shinseki



GEN Eric K. Shinseki signs the official acceptance form for the first U.S.-built example of the Stryker IAV.

told ceremony attendees. "When we declared a need for the IAV, we had the events of Desert Storm in mind."

The wheeled combat vehicle initially exceeded the 38,000-pound contract weight limit that would allow it to be airlifted by a C-130 aircraft. An aggressive weight-management team resolved the issue weeks before the rollout ceremony by decreasing the Stryker's transport load list and

changing its armor formula, an Army official said.

The first two IBCTs to receive the Stryker will be the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, and the 1st Brigade, 25th Inf. Div., both at Fort Lewis, Wash. The 2nd Inf. Div. IBCT is scheduled to have its full contingent of Strykers by May 2003.

Other units slated to transition into IBCTs and receive Strykers are the 172nd Inf. Bde. at Forts Richardson and Wainwright, Alaska; the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Polk, La.; the 2nd Bde., 25th Inf. Div., at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's 56th Bde., 28th Inf. Div.

The Stryker will have 10 variants: the Infantry-Carrier Vehicle; Mobile Gun System; Anti-Tank Missile Guided Vehicle; Reconnaissance Vehicle; Fire-Support Vehicle; Engineer Squad Vehicle; Mortar-Carrier Vehicle; Commander's Vehicle; Medical-Evacuation Vehicle; and the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Reconnaissance Vehicle.

The vehicle was named for two Medal of Honor recipients — PFC Stuart S. Stryker, who served with the 513th Inf. Regt. in Germany during World War II; and SPC Robert F. Stryker, who served with the 1st Inf. Div.

in the Vietnam War. — Joe Burlas, Army News Service

**Fort Sam Houston, Texas**

## New Cancer-Screening Technologies

FEMALE beneficiaries of Army health care will soon receive medical evaluations using the newest, most effective technologies available in the battle against cervical cancer.

The Army has already implemented a worldwide conversion to liquid-based cytology for cervical cancer screening, and is adding HPV, human papillomavirus DNA testing, to help clarify inconclusive results. The two tests, known by the commercial names "ThinPrep" and "Hybrid Capture 2," can be done in one simple procedure.

"The ThinPrep Pap Test and HPV testing are being widely adopted in civilian medical institutions and, after a careful review of existing technologies, we believe that these tests offer significant benefits," said the Army's surgeon general, LTG James B. Peake.

In the past, some two million Pap smears a year have produced unclear results, requiring additional testing or invasive procedures. The new procedures will mean fewer repeat patient appointments and lower overall costs.

"The Army — with its inherent worldwide missions, frequent deployments, and young and highly mobile population — requires a screening tool that is reliable, timely and accurate," Peake said. "The rewards of more accurate Pap smear analysis will be more opportunities to intervene in the early stages of pre-cancer or cancer, less patient anxiety, more con-

## Army Celebrates 227th Birthday

**THE ARMY** officially celebrates its 227th birthday June 14, but many events, before and after that date, are occurring Armywide. For a list of events in your area, or for more information about the Army's past, present and future, visit [www.army.mil/birthday227](http://www.army.mil/birthday227).

venience for patients and cost savings." — *U.S. Army Medical Command Public Affairs Office*

#### Columbus, Ohio

### The Spirit of America Show Goes on the Road

THE Army's colorful re-enactment of its role in American history returns this September when **Spirit of America** rolls into Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 20. After its two-day performance there, the two-hour military pageant comes to the MCI Center in Washington, D.C., Sept. 26 through 29.

If you're within a convenient distance of either of these locations, you won't want to miss this exciting presentation. Featured units include the U.S. Army Band, "Pershing's Own," and the 3rd U.S. Infantry, "The Old Guard," which includes The Caisson Platoon, The Fife and Drum Corps, The U.S. Army Drill Team and The Commander in Chief's Guard. Admission is free, but you must have tickets for the perfor-

**The Spirit of America show opens in Ohio on Sept. 20, then moves to Washington, D.C.**

mance you plan to attend. For more information, call toll-free (866) 239-9425. — *Military District of Washington PAO*

#### Fort Lee, Va.

### Mortuary Affairs Specialists Plan Reunion

THE U.S. Army Mortuary Affairs Center at Fort Lee, Va., will host a reunion of mortuary-affairs, memorial-activities and graves-registration specialists, Sept. 19 and 20.

Activities will honor past and present specialists who are part of this honorable and often difficult profession. Officials will also host a forum for the exchange of information and ideas that benefit today's Army.

Those interested in attending should call Doug Howard at (804) 734-3831, or e-mail him at [howarddd@lee.army.mil](mailto:howarddd@lee.army.mil).

Due to post security requirements, visitors should plan accordingly to avoid delays when entering the installation. — *Fort Lee PAO*



## SAFETY NEWS

### Summer Safety Focuses on POV Accident Prevention

THE U.S. Army Safety Center's "Drive to Arrive" campaign tops off this year's summer safety program. Each year, accidents involving privately owned vehicles account for 60 to 65 percent of the Army's fatalities. The Army lost 99 soldiers in POV accidents last fiscal year. The rate tends to rise during major holiday weekends and the summer months, when soldiers are traveling, said Safety Center spokeswoman Jane Wise.

Public-service videos are now being shown in 162 Army and Air Force Exchange Service theaters worldwide to promote safe driving. The videos, which feature such country music artists as Travis Tritt and Colin Raye, can also be viewed at the center's Web site at <http://safety.army.mil>.

The site also offers several other tools to help commanders and soldiers stay safe during the hot summer weather. A link to the April 2002 issue of Countermeasure, entitled "Beat the Heat," outlines information ranging from the prevention of heat injuries to safe boating. A hot-weather injury chart listing causes, symptoms and first-aid measures for such ailments as heat stroke is included. For more information, see your installation safety officer or go to the Safety Center Web site and type "summer safety" into the search box. — *USASC PAO*